has been found to be contaminated with insect and rodent filth by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Basmati rice exported by M/s. Pepsi Foods was not processed by it in any of its manufacturing factories;

(d) whether these products of Pepsi Foods have been inspected and cleared by APEDA and the inspection agencies;

(e) whether the entire shipment of rice by Pepsi Foods has been detained by U.S. Food and Drug Administration; and

(f) what action Government propose to take against Pepsi Foods in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fraud in London branch of Central Bank of India

392. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a retired Deputy General Manager and others of the London branch of the Central Bank of India have been chargesheeted in a related case of the biggest bank fraud of Rs. 750/- crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when the fraud was detected and whether all those involved have been arrested and chargesheeted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and to the extent possible, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Damodar River Polluted by Industrial Effluents

393. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Damodar river and its tributories have been polluted by the industrial effluents;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 25 thousand square kilometer land area of Bihar have become unfertile as a result thereof and irrigation, drinking water have also been adversely affected; and

(c) if so, what corrective measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has not received any information that 25 thousand square kilometer land area of Bihar has become unfertile directly due to discharge of industrial effluents but there have been reports of need for soil conservation and checking of silt in the valley. However, the water of Damodar River is unfit for drinking without treatment.

(c) In order to abate the pollution of the Damodar River the following steps have been taken:

(i) The Central Pollution Control Board is co-ordinating wtih the state Governments of Bihar and West Bengal, measures to monitor river quality.

(ii) Water quality monitoring stations have been set up by the State Board for the Damodar River.

(iii) The State Government of Bihar has issued directions under Environment Protection Act, 1986 to the Bokaro Thermal Power Station of DVC, Kathora Washeries, Dugdha Washeries West Bokaro Collieries and IEL Gomia. Cases under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974